



Join us for the

5th National Monitoring Conference

Monitoring Networks: Connecting for Clean Water

San José, California • May 7–11, 2006

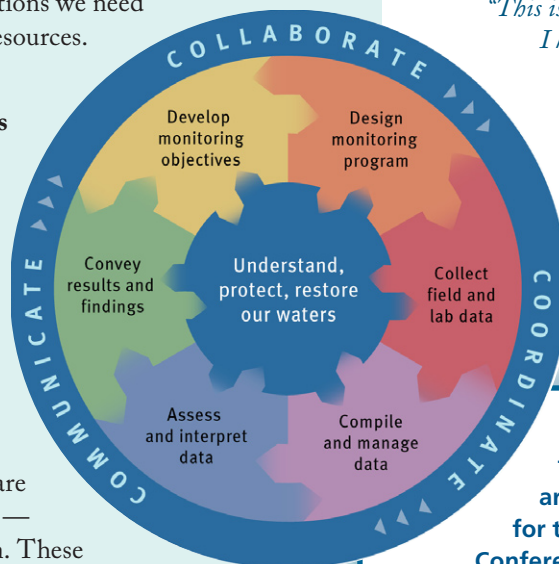
Hosted by the National Water Quality Monitoring Council (the Council), the 5th National Monitoring Conference will focus on **seven themes** that highlight how various networks—including monitoring designs, information exchanges, and the Internet—connect all of us working for clean water. These human, technological, and programmatic support systems create the connections we need to better understand, protect, and restore our water resources.

- Assessing methods & data comparability
- Applying new methods & innovative techniques
- Addressing different scales & multiple objectives
- Synthesizing & sharing data
- Improving communication among all stakeholders
- Integrating monitoring & prediction
- Large-scale programs: Results, lessons learned, & future directions

Especially integral to effective monitoring networks are the “3C’s” of the Council’s *Framework for Monitoring* — **Communication, Collaboration, and Coordination**. These vital elements are fundamental to the overall conference themes and will be woven throughout the conference agenda.

Of Special Note

The 2006 conference will provide an expanded national forum for volunteer monitoring program coordinators to exchange information, develop skills, and build better networks. Plus, the USGS National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program will showcase new findings on the quality of the Nation’s streams and groundwater. EPA, States, and others will present experiences and results emerging from collaborations in probability-based surveys like the National Coastal Assessment and the Wadeable Streams Assessment. All of these topics will be well integrated into the conference program, which will include plenary sessions, workshops, oral presentations, posters, exhibits, field trips, and informal networking opportunities.



What people liked best about the 2004 conference

“Knowledge and experience of the presenters and attendees.”

“Opportunity to speak with other folks facing the same issues as myself.”

“Diversity of participants; high quality talks.”

“Lots of good break time and long lunches to look at posters and exhibitors.”

“Discussion of relevant issues and new technology to improve data access and comparability.”

“The variety of talks and topics ensured all interests would be covered.”

“This is the third NWQMC conference I have attended and I continue to feel that it’s the BEST of any other conferences. I attribute this to networking, diversity, passionate attendees, and great organization; it recharged me as a scientist and researcher.”

San José, the gateway to the San Francisco Bay area, is an ideal location for this National Monitoring Conference. Conveniently located at the southern tip of the Bay, San José is 40 miles south of San Francisco and 50 miles north of Monterey. Rich in history and cultural diversity and recognized as a city of innovation, the city offers plenty of access to world-class cultural arts, nightlife, recreational parks, and nationally recognized hotels and restaurants. The convention and cultural facilities are located in the heart of downtown, just minutes from the airport. Both technical and entertaining field trips will be planned to take full advantage of San José’s beautiful surroundings!

Call for Abstracts

CALLING ALL ABSTRACTS

The National Water Quality Monitoring Council seeks abstracts for oral and poster presentations that are directly relevant to one or more of the seven conference themes. Keep in mind that this conference covers topics applicable to monitoring of *all* waterbody types, including streams, large rivers, lakes, groundwater, wetlands, estuaries, and oceans. Similarly, this conference is not limited geographically. The Council prides itself on attracting presenters from across the globe to share their unique experiences and perspectives on issues we currently are facing. The Council is also interested in hearing lessons learned, which includes discussion of significant challenges, obstacles, and things that just did *not* work.

Provided below is a list of topic ideas intended to spark thinking about issues that might be addressed, not to be comprehensive or limiting.

- Strengthening the role of State/regional monitoring councils and partnerships
- Characterizing watersheds (e.g., stressor identification, reference condition, biointegrity)
- Building the capacity of Tribal water monitoring programs
- Advances in analytical methods—more compounds at lower levels
- Applying targeted and probability-based designs
- Developing and implementing QA/QC protocols
- Evaluating the effectiveness of water quality protection efforts (e.g., BMPs, restoration)
- Sustaining long-term programs (e.g., funding, participation)
- Securing our waters
- Monitoring ecosystem stressors (e.g., invasives, sediment, nutrients)
- Communicating the same data to different audiences
- TMDL tools
- Monitoring for trends
- Contaminants of emerging concern
- Translating monitoring data into action
- Capitalizing on advances in information technology
- Evaluating urban, agricultural, and mining effects on water quality
- Evolving approaches to biological assessment
- Challenges of data aggregation (e.g., distributed networks, large-scale reporting)
- Uses of real time data (e.g., capabilities, limitations, applications)
- Assessing groundwater quality and vulnerability
- Using ancillary data and GIS tools to interpret water quality
- Managing your data (e.g., WQDE, metadata, spreadsheets and relational databases, web-based systems)
- The importance of data and measurement quality objectives (DQOs & MQOs)
- Trans-boundary and multi-jurisdictional water issues
- Lessons and innovations from state monitoring strategies (e.g., how to assess all uses, all waters)
- Integrating physical, chemical, and biological monitoring approaches
- Stormwater and wastewater monitoring
- Predictive assessment tools (e.g., water quality models, georeferencing, remote sensing, GIS analysis)

We are currently accepting nominations for the 2006 Elizabeth J. Fellows Award. Please visit the conference website for details.

To submit abstracts, logon to www.nwqmc.org and click on 2006 National Monitoring Conference. If you experience trouble submitting your abstract(s), contact the conference coordinator at NWQMC2006@tetrattech-ffx.com or 410-356-8993.

Abstracts must be received no later than September 16, 2005

Registration Information

Registration costs include workshops, numerous meals, and an evening reception. Limited scholarships may become available.

- Attendee: \$350 (early registration); \$400 (after March 1, 2006) ■ Oral or Poster Presenter: \$300

Further registration, exhibitor, and other conference information will be available online at www.nwqmc.org

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